

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, 22-24, 26-29, 30, 34-36, 38-43, 46, 52-54, 56-60, 65-69, and 72 are amended herein. Claims 1-3, 19-21, 31-33, 49-51, and 61-64 have previously been canceled. Claims 4-18, 22-30, 34-48, 52-60, and 65-74 are currently pending.

The claims were amended in Amendment B to overcome the claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The claims have been further amended herein to clarify where the steps are performed, as requested by the Examiner in the Advisory Action. Reference to a head-end node has been removed from the preamble in claim 4 and related claims. Claim 8 and related claims have been amended to remove reference to MPLS.

Based on the Allowable Subject Matter specified by the Examiner in the final Office Action, all claims are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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